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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-third plenary session
Geneva, 15-17 June 2015
Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda
Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2014

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

Report of the Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems

Summary

The Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems was held in Dublin, Ireland and Manila, Philippines from 14-16 April 2014, as part of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2014-2015.

The present document is the summary report of that meeting and is provided to inform the Conference of European Statisticians of the organization and outcomes of the .meeting.

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1. The Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD/ESCAP Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS) was held in Dublin, Ireland, and Manila, Philippines from 14 to 16 April 2014. Participants from the following countries attended the meeting in Dublin: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong China, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat. Representatives from the following international organizations also attended: Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21), and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

2. The agenda of the meeting consisted of the following substantive topics:

(a) How information and communication technologies can contribute to changing organizational culture;

(b) Standards-based modernization;

(c) Innovation;

(d) Architecture.

3. Mr. Rune Gløersen (Norway) was elected Chairman of the meeting. The substantive part of the work was organized by: Messrs. Joe Treacy, (Ireland), Joseph Parsons, (United States of America) and Ms. Christine Wirtz, Eurostat for Topic (a); Messrs. Trevor Fletcher (OECD, Eric Hermouet and Marko Javorsek (ESCAP) for Topic (b); Messrs. Marton Vucsan (Netherlands) and Carlo Vaccari (Italy) for Topic (ci); and Messrs. Robert McLellan (Canada) and Patrick Hadley (Australia) for Topic (d). Mr. John Dunne (Ireland) was Organizer/Chair of the Panel discussion on the implementation of a Common Statistical Production Architecture.

4. Mr. Padraig Dalton, Director General, Central Statistics Office of Ireland gave a keynote address, highlighting some of the challenges facing official statistics. He stressed the importance of modernisation and collaboration to address these challenges. He introduced the work of the High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services in this area, and highlighted the importance of leaving a sound legacy for future generations of official statisticians.

5. Meeting documents are available at http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33625#/ .

6. The draft report was adopted by the participants before the close of the meeting.

7. In his summary, the chair reminded participants that this was the last MSIS meeting, and reflected on the achievements of the MSIS meetings over the years, recognising that many of the foundations for statistical modernisation were developed out of ideas discussed at MSIS meetings. As a new format for meetings on this topic is developed, it will be important not to lose the strengths of the MSIS group, and particularly the close network that has developed. He noted that Mr. Jean-Pierre Grandjean (France), who has contributed to the work of this group and its predecessors over many years, would shortly retire, and wished him well on behalf of the participants,. Finally, he thanked the organising committee, the UNECE Secretariat, and the staff of the Central Statistical Office and Dublin Castle for their contributions to ensuring a successful meeting.